



07-09-07

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William A. Taylor
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Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Re: Method for session play gambling games
Application Control Number: 10/719,344
Examiner: Thomas, Eric M.; Art Unit 3714

Dear Examiner:

In response to your initial office action mailed 03/07/2007, I respectfully submit the following answer.

Claim Rejections 1,3,4, 6-16, 18, 19, 21-27 under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Olsen (US 6,146,273).

The Olsen patent is fundamentally different from the present invention. It is only useful as a bonus. The present invention teaches a new method useful in a base game. It is neither obvious nor practical to ascribe features of a bonus mode game to a base game. Olsen does not teach any variable playtime, indeterminate session length or additional winning opportunities in a base game. Thus, Olsen presents a problem. How can a variable session be achieved in a base game without a bonus mode? This problem is solved by the present invention, but not by Olsen.

The Olsen patent describes what is known in the art as a mystery jackpot system. A percent of wagers from multiple games are pooled for mystery payouts. The game operator (casino) selects upper and lower payout limits, and a controller selects random